

# Says England Misses a Big Chance to Win War by Ban on Cotton for Germany

"Daily Express" Accuses Government of Bungling the Situation.

TEUTONS HAD ONLY 8 MONTHS SUPPLY

Special Correspondence to THE SUN.  
LONDON, July 1.—The Daily Express, which led the London newspapers in calling to the Government's attention the great danger in permitting the importation of cotton into Germany, prints today an article on the cotton situation since the war began. It is said that at that time Germany's supply of cotton was sufficient to last only eight months, at the end of which time, had no more been available, the manufacture of explosives would have stopped automatically. Even during the first few months of the present year the subject was not worthy of serious consideration. Meanwhile Germany was buying cotton from the United States at double the peace price.

## Importance of Cotton.

The article, which is headed "Ammunition for the Enemy," says in part: "It is only by examining the facts in the order in which they occurred that the full magnitude of the cotton mystery can be appreciated."

"Cotton is the essential material for the manufacture of high explosives, yet for more than ten months the authorities, despite great and persistent pressure, have refused to declare the importation of raw cotton to be essential for Germany to maintain her output of ammunition."

"Cotton was the one material which Germany could not obtain without our consent."

"Cotton rags were out of the question."

"Germany's stocks of cotton must be large, since she was willing to pay three times the normal price for it."

"The final arguments put forward were that the cotton was not essential."

"Every possible effort was being made to prevent cotton reaching Germany, and the steps taken were completely effective."

"Even if Germany was obtaining cotton on the advance in gold for it and thus replenishing her resources."

"Effect of Legal Quibbles."

"This lawyer's alternative pleading might have been effective in a lawsuit in which the Judge ordered the jury to find that the cotton was not essential, but legal quibbles have little weight in a fight for existence. The first of the two arguments has been proved to be false, and the second was put forward, but by official figures."

"In these circumstances little importance can be attached to the fact that the cotton was not essential, and she has never manifested the slightest doubt on the subject."

"At an early stage of the war it was estimated that Germany had less than 250,000 tons of cotton in stock, and that her expenditure averaged 1,000 tons a day. This meant that unless she obtained fresh supplies, at the end of eight months she would be without ammunition."

"There was an astonishing chance for us to win the war. Chemists, engineers and experts of all kinds drew attention to it again and again. Yet we refused to act. It meant that there was a large market in Germany for cotton and that two-thirds of the normal supply could be utilized in the country at once if American vessels could be found to transport it."

"Record American Crop."

"The facts are as simple as they are extraordinary. In the first fortnight in December it was announced that the American crop was practically secured. On December 15 Senator Smith of South Carolina stated in Washington that he had been advised by a prominent cotton dealer in Bremen that there was a large market in Germany for cotton and that two-thirds of the normal supply could be utilized in the country at once if American vessels could be found to transport it."

"American dealers did not let the opportunity slip by. In less than a week it was known in London that the American crop was practically secured. On December 15 Senator Smith of South Carolina stated in Washington that he had been advised by a prominent cotton dealer in Bremen that there was a large market in Germany for cotton and that two-thirds of the normal supply could be utilized in the country at once if American vessels could be found to transport it."

"The beginning of February Sir J. B. Rose, M. P., asked a question about the matter. He was informed in a written Parliamentary reply that the proportion of cotton imported into Germany which was used in the manufacture of explosives was very small and that Germany's requirements could be met from stocks which were in that country at the outbreak of war."

"The Daily Express exposed the fallacy of these statements on February 18, and showed that very shipment of cotton which Germany might mean the British casualties."

"On February 27 it was announced that the Government had decided to stop the importation of cotton into Germany. It was obvious that this did not meet the situation, and on March 6 the Daily Express repeated its warning."

"British Note to Washington."

"Sir Edward Grey explained the British attitude in a note to the American Government on March 16. He stated that the extent to which these blacklisted powers will be actually exercised will depend on the administrative orders issued by the Government. As regards cotton, the full paragraph of the arrangements contemplated have all been made."

## GERMANY HUSBANDS HER COTTON SUPPLY

BERLIN, via London, July 1.—The military commandant of the province of Brandenburg, in which Berlin is situated, has issued an order to the effect of August 1, prohibiting the manufacture of fabrics wholly or chiefly cotton for nearly all ordinary purposes, such as articles of clothing, bed sheets, pillow slips and tablecloths.

The presumption from this order is that Germany needs all the cotton available for use in the manufacture of explosives.

ready been explained. It will be added that every possible regard has been had to the legitimate interests of the American cotton trade. Sir Edward Grey also made it plain that cotton shipments to Mediterranean ports would not be stopped.

"The British public were left in the dark regarding these arrangements with the United States until March 18, when it was announced in Washington that:

"Cargoes consigned to enemy ports would not be allowed to proceed, but if shipped before March 2 they would be bought by the British Government."

"Cargoes for neutral ports in northern Europe, regarding which arrangements had been made before March 2, would be allowed free passage if shipped before April 1, or would be bought at contract prices if stopped."

"In the meantime Sir William Ramsay had interviewed the French Minister of War. According to the *Matin*, he pointed out to the Minister that Germany would need 3,000,000 bales of cotton in the next ten months."

"On March 25 the committee of experts repeated their protest to Mr. Runciman, president of the Board of Trade, and on March 30 a deputation of the committee waited on him to urge their views. Mr. Runciman refused to give an answer, but cotton would not reach Germany from any source."

"Imports of cotton by neutral countries continued to advance by leaps and bounds during April."

"On April 14 Mr. Primrose, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated in the House of Commons that the military authorities were declaring cotton contraband, and that would stop the importation of cotton from Germany."

"On April 27 an order in council was issued as effective as an order declaring cotton contraband. He added:

"The steps taken are extremely effective to stop cotton from reaching Germany and the declaration of cotton as contraband would not alter the result. As cotton reaching Germany is concerned, in the very least."

"England Supplying Germany."

"A new aspect of the question was now brought to light. Enormous quantities of a special cotton fabric used for Zeppelins and aeroplanes wings had been exported from Lancashire to Germany."

"It was reported on April 24 that the export of this fabric had been prohibited. On April 27 an order in council was published prohibiting the export of raw cotton except to France, Russia, Spain and Portugal."

"On May 5 Sir J. D. Rees quoted in the House of Commons figures showing the large imports of cotton by Holland and Germany. Mr. Primrose replied that there was no reason to believe that the figures for April would show a diminution."

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## BRITISH REJECTED DEADLY GAS IDEA

Plan Offered by Brooklyn Physician Before Use by Germans.

TRIAL HERE A SUCCESS

The idea of using asphyxiating gas in warfare was tested on Staten Island in January last and was offered to the British Embassy in Washington at least three months before the Germans poured chlorine gas into the Allies' trenches in France, according to Dr. W. B. McLaughlin, a physician and scientist who served in the Spanish war and now has a laboratory at 1225 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn.

The doctor says he originated the idea. He also says he offered the plan to Charles M. Schwab of the Bethlehem Steel Company, but Mr. Schwab did not take it up because there was no manufacturing for him to do. Dr. McLaughlin is a graduate of the University of Texas, where his father was a physician and surgeon.

Whether or not the Germans learned of Dr. McLaughlin's idea and developed it themselves Dr. McLaughlin is unable to say, but when the British Embassy declined to take the suggestion the doctor dropped it.

"I conceived the plan of using gas that was heavier than air," said Dr. McLaughlin yesterday. "Down on Staten Island there is land that is made almost useless by the gas that settles on it from a factory in Bayonne. The fumes come from a big smokestack. The people protested recently and the smokestack was run no fifty feet higher."

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